GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3240
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
DAMAGE TO RAILWAY PROPERTY BY NAXALITIES/MAOISTS
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sustained loss of property due to the 24 hours economic blockade called by the Maoists ended on June 24, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some trains had to be cancelled as a precautionary measure;

(d) if so, whether the refund was made to the ticket holders;

(e) if so, the total loss suffered by the Railways thereby;

(f) the details of other such incidents of damage done to railway lines/ stations/properties by naxalites /Maoists during the last one year;

(g) the extent of financial loss caused to railway property and loss of lives suffered therein; and

(h) the action proposed to be taken by the Railways to handle such situation and make the rail journey safe and comfortable?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. An estimated loss of approximately Rs.3,89,05,000 to the railway property has been reported during 24 hours 'Economic Blockade' called by the Maoists on June 24, 2007.

Maoists reportedly blasted explosive at two placed in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railways (between Barwadih-Mangra stations and between Chetar-Richughuta stations) causing damage to the railway track. Two electric locos with 22 empty wagons of goods train derailed causing damage to over head electrical fittings.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Information is being collected from Zonal Railways.

(f) & (g) Following incident of damages to railway property by naxalites/Maoists have been reported during 2006-07:-

1. On 25.04 2006, 100/150 extremists equipped with arms arrived at Railway Cabin of Narganjo Railway Station in Asansol − Jhajha Section of Asansol Division over Eastern Railway, kidnapped railway employees, draggad them towards the jungle and placed bomb on track at kilometer number 357/21-22. They blew up the railway cabin of Narganjo railway station.

2. On 26.04.2006, Maoists exploded one land mine at kilometer number 364/1-2 between Dashratpur and Jamalpur railway stations in Malda division over Eastern Railway and badly damaged railway track.

3. On 19.05.2006, Maoists removed 02 rail pieces (26 metre length) from the running track over East Coat Railway, while the down train number KVL-35/25 with 53 wagons loaded with Iron ore was passing through Bansi − Kamalur stations. It led to derailment of all the 03 Electric Locos and capsizement of seven loaded wagons. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rupees 1,65,32,000/-

4. On 14.08.2006, over head equipment and signal and telecommunication failed in between Kamalur − Bhansi stations over East Coast Railway because two huge trees were cut and placed on the track by the Maoists. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property is estimated at Rupees 72,000/-.

5. On 08.10.2006, two rails were removed from running track and one explosive device was planted by Maoists at kilometer number 442/22-23 over East Coast Railway resulting into derailment of goods train and damage of track. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property is estimated at Rupees 1,08,54,939/-.

6. On 15.10.2006, 50/60 Maoists set on fire three locos of train No. NKKC-470 over South Eastern Railway.

7. On 30.10.2006, Maoists removed two rails from running track at kilometer number 417/8 over East Coast Railway, resulting in derailment of goods train and damage of track. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property is estimated at Rupees 2,24,15,942/.

8. On 06.12.2006, a group of armed Naxalites set fire to an engine between Darakasa − Batalao Railway Stations of Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway in Maharashtra State. No loss of human life. Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rupees 20,000/-

9. On 10.12.2006, 25/30 armed Naxalites attacked Railway Protection Force Cash escorting party in train No. 346-Down Tata-Kadakpur passenger over South Eastern Railway and snatched two .303 Rifles and 30 rounds causing serious bleeding injuries to two on duty Railway Protection Force staff.

(h) Following measures are being taken to make the Rail journey safe & comfortable:-

Through escorting important Mail/Express trains by Railway Protection
Force/Government Railway Police personnel.
By procuring Modern security gadgets.
By close and effective supervision of the staff.
By augmenting Manpower.
By strengthening the Dog Squads.
By holding regular co-ordination meetings with Government Railway Police/Civil Police / Intelligence Agencies.